

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic (e-) commerce support system comprising:
  - a Web server to which each retailer makes an access via a terminal of each retailer over a network, thus performing access management for each retailer;
  - a database storing data for each of functions required for e-commerce; and
  - an application server to establish each of the functions by using the stored data, necessary functions among the functions required for e-commerce being offered to each retailer and available through the terminal of each retailer over the network.
2. The electronic commerce support system according to claim 1, wherein the functions include at least a shop creation function, a running management function, a charge and settlement function and a delivery function.
3. The electronic commerce support system according to claim 1, wherein each function is put into a module.
4. The electronic commerce support system according to claim 1 further comprising:
  - a table storing membership numbers assigned to customers by each retailer and membership identification numbers assigned to customers by the electronic commerce supporting system irrespective of each retailer but corresponding to the membership numbers;
  - a customer database storing personal data on the customers for each of the membership identification numbers; and
  - a certificate server to authenticate a customer using the table and the customer database in response to a membership number sent by a retailer via the terminal thereof, a result of authentication being sent only to the terminal of the retailer which has made an access to the certificate server for customer authentication.

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